

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the outstanding Official Action, comprising a restriction requirement, and is intended to place the application in better condition for examination. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

In response to the restriction requirement referred to above, Applicants hereby elect Group I, Species 1, directed to claims 85 – 92 and 145, without traverse.

The election of Group I, Species 1, directed to claims 85 – 92 and 145, is deemed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Official Action.

Claims 93 – 104, 146 and 147, which belong to non-elected species of Group I, have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 105 – 144 and 148 – 161, which do not belong to Group I, have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in the context of divisional applications.

New claims 162 – 193 have been added. New claims 162 – 193 are directed to Species 1 of Group I.

New claims 162 – 168 are apparatus claims corresponding to claims 86 – 92, respectively.

New claim 169 is an apparatus claim written in a means-plus-function form. Claim 169 corresponds to apparatus claim 145.

New claim 170 is supported, inter alia, by the fourth paragraph on page 23 of the specification.

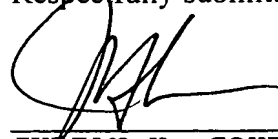
New claims 171 – 174 are supported, inter alia, by the fourth full paragraph on page 30 of the specification.

New claims 175 – 181 are supported, inter alia, by Fig. 4.

New claims 182 – 193 are apparatus claims corresponding to claims 170 – 181, respectively, and are similarly supported.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks the application is now deemed in better condition for examination. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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